

KAPPA ALPHA

WINTER 2009-10

THE TA

MAGAZINE



**ROGERS
HARTMANN**

HOW A
"MYSTERY DISORDER"
CHANGED HER LIFE
(PG 18)

Site to See

MUST-SEE WEB PICK OF THE QUARTER

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KAPPA ALPHA THETA NOW HAS A CENTRALIZED NETWORK OF ONLINE CLASSIFIED ADS—FOR THETAS ONLY!

Betties List is a place where members can upload products and services to offer to Theta sisters around the globe. Simply log in, click a category of interest (garage sales, vacation rentals, education, jobs, and more), and describe your product or service. You can even upload a photo and select whether you want Thetas only or all website visitors to view your posting.

There is no charge for using Betties List, but users must agree to a few rules.

If you ever need assistance, simply email the webmaster at headquarters:
webmaster@kappaalphatheta.org.

www.kappaalphatheta.org/bettieslist

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Autumn	July 11
Winter	October 23
Spring	January 31
Summer	April 11

Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity, founded at Indiana Asbury College (DePauw University), Greencastle, Indiana, on January 27, 1870, is the first Greek-letter fraternity known among women.

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FRATERNITY
COMMUNICATIONS
ASSOCIATION

THE MAKEOVER ISN'T OVER

BY LIZ APPEL RINCK, Γ/BUTLER, EDITOR

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO WROTE, CALLED, OR E-MAILED REGARDING THE AUTUMN 2009 ISSUE.

As you probably remember, we introduced a redesigned Theta magazine with the Autumn 2009 issue. As might be expected (because those who don't have strong opinions don't write letters to the editor!), some readers loved the new magazine. And some hated it.

Those who loved it commented favorably on the fresh, modern look and the abundance of photographs. Those who hated it commented mainly on the legibility, or lack thereof. We truly appreciated every call, letter, and e-mail. This is the Theta magazine, by and for Thetas, and we love to hear from you, no matter what your mood.

Here's the disadvantage to a printed publication: once an issue has been sent to the printer, it's done. There's no more tweaking, no more correcting, no more second-guessing decisions. There is only waiting, for several weeks between releasing the documents to the printer and actually having a copy in hand. That waiting period can be fairly fraught, especially if the publication staff has tried something unorthodox, such as ... oh, a complete redesign.

And when the printed copies do arrive, pleasure is evoked by some efforts and disappointment is caused by others.

Here's the advantage, though, to a printed publication: every new issue is a blank page, so to speak. It's an opportunity to change the things that aren't working so well and further fine-tune the things that are. Producing a printed publication is certainly not an occupation for people who don't enjoy the journey!

So, dear reader, thank you for embarking on this journey with us. If you liked the Autumn 2009 issue, we hope you will find even more to love in this issue. And if you were unimpressed with our previous efforts, we hope you'll agree that this issue offers some improvements. If anything you see or read moves you to write or e-mail, so much the better. (Contact information may be found on page 2.)

One of the principal advantages to this Over the Desktop column is that it affords us the opportunity to share some backstory on each issue. Last summer, we received a brief, almost diffident, note from an alumna of the Alpha Theta Chapter at Texas. She was scheduled to appear on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, she wrote, and thought we might like to know that. As further information, she also shared a copy of an article she'd written for *D Magazine*, the Dallas city magazine.

We're not immune to the power of Oprah. We were impressed, we admit it. And then we read the article. Oh, my. We were **really** impressed. For the past 15 years, almost every issue of the Theta magazine has included a profile article. And with only one other exception ("An Interview With Laura Bush," Spring 2005), those profiles have been written as third-person narratives. Thanks to that note we received last summer, and to the delightful e-mail correspondence that resulted, we have departed from our standard profile format. For a truly remarkable story, written about herself by a truly remarkable Theta, please turn to page 18.

You're also encouraged to read "Speaking up for Children," beginning on page 12. While Theta's relationship with CASA might seem like old news, 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of that association. As part of our celebratory article, we are honored to include a touching memoir by a colleague at the Gamma Omega Chapter at Auburn. She writes of the tremendous impact that a CASA volunteer had on her family and how that experience shaped her later decision to join Kappa Alpha Theta.

Finally, we hope you'll enjoy seeing a familiar face on page 23. Joan Ganz Cooney, Beta Delta/Arizona, has previously graced our cover (Summer 1990); in this issue she personifies Women of True Promise.

With each issue of *The Kappa Alpha Theta Magazine*, we shoot for the moon, believing that even if we fail, we will land among the stars. And what better place for Thetas? ◇

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Notice: Because Kappa Alpha Theta is not an officially recognized student group at Harvard or Santa Clara University, these schools prohibit using "Harvard" or "Santa Clara" in any published reference to our Zeta Xi or Eta Lambda Chapter.

YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW, KAPPA ALPHA THETA EXISTS TO NURTURE EACH MEMBER THROUGHOUT HER COLLEGE AND ALUMNAE EXPERIENCE AND TO OFFER LIFELONG OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND MORAL GROWTH AS SHE MEETS THE HIGHER AND BROADER DEMANDS OF MATURE LIFE.

COLLEGE SERVICE TRIP

Theta Collegians will have the opportunity to join the Fraternity and Ambassadors for Children on the first-ever Theta service trip, July 25 to August 1, 2010! All collegiate members in good standing are eligible to participate in this opportunity. Make a difference with Theta, the first Greek-letter organization to organize a service trip exclusively for its members!



Trip participants will be traveling to Santa Fe to serve local children in need. Activities will range from art projects to educational initiatives to small building projects. Trip participation will be limited to two members from each college chapter with a total trip capacity of 35. Trip registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis and will begin February 15, 2010. More information will be available to college chapters in the coming months! Questions may be addressed to thetaservicetrip@gmail.com.

Take this unique opportunity to live out the Fraternity's social aim for the widest influence for good with other Thetas from across the United States and Canada!



Lindsey O'Connor, Delta Epsilon/Arizona State

THETA BUMPER STICKER

Lindsey O'Connor, Delta Epsilon/Arizona State, won our Facebook bumper sticker contest! To add our Theta bumper sticker to your own Facebook page, simply go to Theta's Facebook page and click the Boxes tab to upload it to your Facebook profile and

facebook

share it with your Theta sisters.

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

The following Fraternity staff members celebrated milestone anniversaries in 2009.

10 YEARS

Ruth Charles-Myers, AX/Purdue
receptionist

15 YEARS

Maureen Fahey Bowers, ΔΣ/Ball State
art director
Mindy Marshall Young, Γ/Butler
assistant director of finance
Liz Appel Rinck, Γ/Butler
director of communications

ΓΣ/SAN DIEGO STATE FACILITY CORPORATION BOARD MEETING

All alumnae of the Gamma Sigma Chapter at San Diego State are cordially invited to attend the chapter's annual facility corporation board meeting.

Date: Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010, immediately following the Founders Day Luncheon hosted

by the San Diego Alumnae Chapter. Please visit the S.D. Alumnae website, www.sandiegothetas.com, for further details. You may also contact Becky Adams (949-249-1363). We hope you'll attend: there have been exciting changes in the chapter and great plans for the future.

NEW ALUMNAE CHAPTERS

Congratulations to the Mobile Bay (Ala.), Key West (Fla.), and Western North Dakota Alumnae Chapters, which were granted charters by Grand Council in 2009. More information about joining and starting an alumnae chapter is available at www.kappaalphatheta.org.

FOUNDATION GIFTS



The quarterly listings of honorary and memorial gifts to the Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation are now

available online. Please visit www.kappaalphathetafoundation.org/hall-of-honor.

PLANNING A REUNION?

Place a reunion notice in *The Magazine* and on the Theta website. Mail a brief notice to Reunions, *The Kappa Alpha Theta Magazine*, 8740 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268, and e-mail webmaster@kappaalphatheta.org.

Notices for reunions to be held May through July must be received by January 31; for August through October, received by April 11; for November through January, received by July 11; and for February through April, by October 23.

WE REGRET THE FOLLOWING ERRORS

The Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation was not included in the list of sponsors of Risk Management on the Road ("Sisterhood and Safety," Autumn 2009). Through a sizeable annual grant to the Fraternity, the Foundation supports a number of educational and leadership programs, including RMOTR.

A list of Fraternity officers celebrating milestone anniversaries ("Theta Times," Autumn 2009), omitted Christa Dell Sobon, Delta Zeta/Emory. Sobon, college district president, recently celebrated 10 years of service. The list also incorrectly identified Mandy Burgett Wushinske, Zeta Sigma/Ohio Northern, as a membership district director. Wushinske is a college district president who recently celebrated five years of service to the Fraternity. ♦

WHAT'S NEW?

Is there some exciting news about yourself or your chapter that you'd like to share with other Thetas? Let us know! A submission form may be found in *The Magazine* area of the Theta website, or you may send items via e-mail or snail mail to the editor. Addresses are listed on page 2. Please include your name and chapter of affiliation with each submission.

WRITE TO US

Do you have a comment about an article in this or any other issue of *The Magazine*? Do you know an accomplished Theta who would be a good subject for a profile article? Do you have a Theta issue on your mind?

Then let us hear from you! We are pleased to receive letters from our readers; we value your input. Correspondence by regular mail or e-mail may be sent to the editor. (See page 2 for addresses.)

THE MAGAZINE ONLINE

Receive e-mail notification when *The Magazine* is posted online! Complete the online Update Magazine Preferences form.

Upload reunion photos or reunion info
<http://www.kappaalphatheta.org/whatsnew>



FOUNDERS DAY AND FRIENDSHIP FUND MESSAGE 2010



On this Founders Day, Kappa Alpha Theta celebrates 140 years of sisterhood, 140 years of opportunities, and 140 years of Theta love. This is a time to honor the perseverance, independence, and faith of our Founders. I hope that you will use this occasion to reach out to a sister who has touched your life or reflect on how your affiliation with Kappa Alpha Theta has made a difference.

On this Founders Day, Thetas everywhere celebrate the contributions of four courageous young women as they took the bold step to articulate their vision for a woman's fraternity and bring that vision to reality. The True Promise of Founders Day is realized in each and every member living up to her fullest potential and exemplifying all of the qualities of noblest womanhood. And so today we celebrate what Kappa Alpha Theta has become or—perhaps—how it has remained the same: a woman's fraternity composed of courageous women who are taking bold steps in their own studies, professions, and communities.

On this Founders Day, I hope you will join me in strengthening that bond of sisterhood, making the most of every opportunity membership affords you, and demonstrating your love through a gift to the Friendship Fund.

Your Friendship Fund gift fulfills a promise to serve and care for our sisters who are experiencing catastrophic illness, natural disaster, financial distress, and urgent family crisis. By contributing to this fund, we can help a sister in need and thus demonstrate that Kappa Alpha Theta also means sisters helping sisters through the most difficult times. On this Founders Day, let us recommit ourselves to the promises of intellectual growth, the widest influence for good, and love through our words and our actions.

We trace the beginning of the Friendship Fund to the 1924 Grand Convention, when a young alumna, Rachel Sumner Poole, Chi/Syracuse, spoke of a Theta in dire need and asked if there was any fund from which the Fraternity could aid her. In response, a committee was formed and recommended the establishment of the Friendship Fund at the 1926 Convention; a few months later, Grand Council suggested starting the fund through contributions at Founders Day celebrations. An important ongoing tradition is the secrecy surrounding the giving of gifts from the fund. Two members write on behalf of a sister, and the Friendship Fund committee determines the award amount. The requesters remain anonymous, and all records are confidential.

Today most contributions to the Friendship Fund continue to be made through Founders Day gifts, but are welcome any time of the year. Again this year, I hope you will consider making a Friendship Fund contribution equal in value to your favorite indulgence as our sisters in need are not able to enjoy such luxuries. The Friendship Fund is under the management of the Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation, so all gifts to it are tax-deductible. Checks, made out to the Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation with "Friendship Fund" noted on the memo line, may be sent to Foundation Headquarters, 8740 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

Loyally,

Katie Busby, PhD
EZ/Mississippi
Fraternity President

Theta also means sisters helping sisters through the most difficult times."



PRIZED POSSESSION

I very much enjoyed reading the 2009 Summer issue of our Theta magazine. The article "Remember ... Convention Mementoes Become Prized Possessions" ("Through the Years," page 26) struck a nostalgic chord with me, for I have my possession the lovely comb and nail file case from Grand Convention in Banff in 1956.

I was the president of the Alpha Rho Chapter at South Dakota that year and went by train to the Convention. As the train made stops along the way, more Thetas came on board, and by the time we reached Banff, we were all fast friends.

The Convention was a thrilling one, and I was proud that Alpha Rho received the Efficiency Award at the concluding banquet. My needlepoint case has always resided in purses that I took to weddings and other special occasions. It is in almost perfect condition and is a cherished possession, as are the memories of that wonderful and unforgettable week at Banff.

ANN HASSE NELSON
AP/SOUTH DAKOTA



Ann Hasse Nelson
AP/South Dakota

VERY LOYAL THETA

I have been enjoying my Summer 2009 magazine and I felt I had to tell you about a special sister. I first met Sonnie Hayes as a transfer student from Whitman College (Delta Delta Chapter) to OSU (Beta Epsilon) in 1958. She was warm and friendly at that time. She has always been a dedicated and loyal Theta and continues that more than 50 years later. Sonnie communicates with all her sisters and plans events and get-togethers and doesn't take no for an answer. Although working all of her life, she manages time to e mail and write her sisters. She was president of our chapter as a senior and has always been very devoted to the Fraternity. I thought after reading the Correspondence page in the Theta magazine I would tell you of her.

NANCY VAN ARTSDALE WILCOX
BE/OREGON STATE

FOND MEMORIES

Ever since my sister and I were born in the 1940s—and even before we could read and pronounce "Kappa Alpha Theta Magazine"—we can remember your faithfulness in sending our mother your sorority magazine. So we are very sentimental about sending you notice that our wonderful mother, Mathilde Donnell Greenwood, Alpha Theta/Texas, died March 21.

Our mother was 97 when she died, so hers was a long fellowship with Kappa Alpha Theta.

**MARK GREENWOOD &
ANN GREENWOOD WENCK**

I CAN BE A THETA AGAIN

Thank you so much for publishing an article on Domestic Violence ("Economic Abuse," Summer 2009) within the Theta sisterhood. I am a victim. I do have financial skills, so I was able to escape with the clothes on my back and no money in my wallet to Los Angeles from Oklahoma City. In four years I have secured support, housing, and financial independence from my abuser. But my financial status is/was embarrassing to me, and I was afraid to become a part of my Theta sisterhood in Long Beach, Calif., because of my meager income at the moment. This article has given me the freedom to be the Theta for a Lifetime that I am. I will be joining the Long Beach Alumnae chapter this fall.

Thank you for giving me my identity in Theta back as well as my voice to speak up and out against domestic violence and its cycle of abuse.

DEBORAH J. THORWART
AO/OKLAHOMA

61 YEARS IN THETA

I was surprised and delighted to learn that a pansy pin gift is sent to 50-year Thetas. If someone would be interested in knowing about me, this is a brief summary.

I was initiated into Gamma Xi at San Jose State in 1948. My sister, Jeanne Hjelm, was initiated the year before, and my sister-in-law, Patty Doherty Hjelm, was initiated about 1952 or '53.

I married William Rodney Fielder the day after I graduated. We had five children, of whom four survived childhood and early adulthood. After almost 30 years of marriage, we divorced.

When our 32-year-old daughter died in the late '80s, I went to Japan with the intention of staying one year. Nine years later, after teaching English as a second language at Japanese universities, as well as many travels, I came back to the US at the age of 67.

I discovered in Japan that I am an artist. I have won first-prize ribbons at the state fairs here in Idaho, and I also continue to tutor learning-challenged children using the education I earned with a master's degree after our divorce.

My message is—never stop discovering surprises about yourself!

YVONNE HJELM FIELDER
ΓE/SAN JOSE STATE

HAPPY NEW MEMBER

After only a few months of being a sister, I have already grown quite excited to fulfill my potential both as a member of Kappa Alpha Theta and as a college student.

Some of the exciting things happening in the Epsilon Tau Chapter at Yale are the acquisition of a new house whose interior I'm helping to design and some stellar new philanthropic efforts such as intramural Greek sporting events.

TAYLOR VAUGHN-LASLEY
ET/YALE ♦

WRITE TO US!

Do you have a comment about an article in this or any other issue of *The Magazine*? Do you have a Theta issue on your mind? Then let us hear from you! We are pleased to receive letters from our readers; we value your input.

Letters to *The Magazine* may be sent via mail (Liz Rinck, Kappa Alpha Theta, 8740 Founders Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46268), fax (317-876-1925), or e-mail (lrinck@kappaalpha-theta.org).

*My message
is—never stop
discovering
surprises about
yourself!"*

Yvonne Hjelm Fielder
ΓE/San Jose State

SEE YOURSELF IN SNAPSHOTS

The Magazine wants your snapshots! We want photographs of your reunions, get-togethers, service projects, athletic endeavors, travels, and parties. We want photographs of you if you've recently been promoted, been elected to an office, received an award, written or illustrated a book, or celebrated a similar accomplishment.

We want these photos for the Snapshots section of each issue (check out page 8). This section is designed to recognize individual Thetas and Theta chapters. While space constraints prohibit us from guaranteeing publication, we do carefully consider each submission. And if we can't publish something right away, we often hold it for a few months and include it in the next issue.

Perhaps you've thought about submitting an item for publication but you weren't sure it was appropriate. Here are some general guidelines for submission to Snapshots.

TEXT WITH OR WITHOUT A PHOTO: community or campus awards, book publications, job promotions, art exhibits, chapter anniversaries, and other individual and group accomplishments.

PHOTOS WITH CAPTIONS: trips, Founders Day celebrations, dances, sporting events, recruitment events, philanthropic endeavors, holiday gatherings, and other occasions when Thetas get together.

WE'RE SORRY that we cannot print wedding photos, baby pictures or birth announcements, obituaries, or Thetas "kiting" (making kite shapes with arms or fingers). Wedding and baby pictures may be uploaded to the Theta website. Log onto www.kappaalphatheta.org and choose Photo Zone from the list of Common Quick Links.

SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS via e-mail to Liz Rinck, editor, lrinck@kappaalphatheta.org. Send via regular mail to Liz Rinck, Kappa Alpha Theta, 8740 Founders Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46268.

TIPS FOR TAKING GOOD PHOTOGRAPHS

Knowing what constitutes a good photo can help you get media coverage for your alumnae or college chapter, not only in *The Magazine*, but also in university and community publications. It will also help you get more satisfaction from your personal photo albums and scrapbooks.

- Turn off your camera's date stamp.
- Avoid distractions. Is there a cluttered dining table in the foreground? Do there appear to be trees growing out of your subjects' heads?
- Look for an action shot or an unusual perspective. Photo after photo of rows of Thetas gets dull pretty fast.
- In general, fewer people are better. A photo of a sea of faces is intimidating to the eye.
- Move in close. Are the faces of your subjects visible? Make your subjects as large as possible in your viewfinder.
- Beware of shadows. Indoors, take one photo using the flash and one without the flash and submit the best result. Outdoors, use the flash to "fill in" shadows on faces. ◊

DIGITAL PHOTO GUIDELINES

DO set your camera for the largest image size and highest resolution possible. Photos for publication should have a resolution of 300 ppi (pixels per inch). Low resolution photos (72 ppi) will look fine on a website but will not produce well in print.

DON'T send photos taken on a cell phone. Don't send photocopies or photos clipped from other publications, except as reference material.

DO take photos with a camera that's at least 3.2 megapixels.

DON'T forward photos from MySpace, Facebook or any other website or ask us to access photos from Snapfish or similar accounts.

DO e-mail photos as jpg attachments. Don't paste them in an e-mail or Word document.

DON'T adjust the sharpness or color or any other aspect of the image before submitting it. Our art director will adjust the photos as needed.

DO send information for captions, including the names of the Thetas pictured and the name of the event.

DON'T show glasses or bottles that contain or look as if they might contain alcoholic beverages.



Want more?
Visit www.kappaalphatheta.org/Resources/Magazine for an online submission form. ➔



BETA EPSILON CHAPTER AT OREGON STATE HAD AN OUTSTANDING FALL RECRUITMENT, ADDING 44 NEW MEMBERS TO THE CHAPTER!



A Gamma Theta Chapter at Carnegie Mellon, along with Kappa Delta Rho Fraternity, received first place at Greek Sing with their performance of Chicago. Along with winning top honors, the chapter raised \$2,500 for the university's chosen charity, the Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research.

B The Alaska Alumnae Chapter hiked near Seward, Ala. Pictured near Prince William Sound are Julia Swayngim Martinez, BK/Drake; Marika Henderson Sears, ΔI/Puget Sound; Christi Froiland, AP/South Dakota; Pat Brown Spratt, BZ/Oklahoma State; Krista Scott, K/Kansas; Laura Boykin Beck,

AN/Montana; and program coordinator Heather Schrader Lindquist, BΣ/SMU.

C Cousins Melanie and Kristina Badgley, along with Jacqueline Morse Redmond and Christine Sherwood, all of Beta Pi Chapter at Michigan State, enjoyed an engagement celebration in northern Michigan.

D The women of Epsilon Omega Chapter at Washington & Jefferson, along with the local CASA for Kids chapter, held Chefs for CASA to raise funds to recruit, train, and monitor CASA volunteers.

E As a Gamma Psi Chapter senior at Texas Christian in 2007, Katelin Reddick became friends with freshman new mem-

ber Celene Cortney. Celene, along with her sister Claire Cortney, O/USC, encouraged Reddick to go on a date with their brother Bryan. Although Reddick was headed to New York to begin her dream job with shoe designer Sam Edelman, she decided to give Bryan a try. The pair have been dating long-distance (Texas to New York) ever since, and on her last trip back to New York, Bryan proposed at the airport. Reddick will be wearing her Theta badge in her flowers on her wedding day.

F The San Francisco Alumnae Chapter celebrated its centennial with a high tea at the Metropolitan Club in San Francisco.

THETAS OF NOTE



The New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners has named **SANDRA BAUMAN, PHD, BK/Drake**, founder of Bauman Research and Consulting, LLC, its New Jersey Business Woman of the Year.



STACEY JARRETT, AM/MISSOURI, was one of two Fraternity Communications Association scholarship recipients. The scholarships are awarded to collegians pursuing degrees in communications-related fields.



EMMA MILLER, AΘ/TEXAS, participated in *The Sense Corp Texas 4,000 for Cancer*, a 4,500 mile bike ride across America—Austin, Texas, to Anchorage, Ala.—with the mission of fighting cancer.



DR. CARLY GREENFIELD, HΘ/CENTRAL FLORIDA, has opened her chiropractic practice in Atlanta. To learn more about her practice, head to www.DrCarlyDC.com.



SUE IVIE BOLING, BΘ/IOWA, received the 2009 National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association Honor Award. Boling retired in 2006 from Virginia Commonwealth University as director of recreational sport.



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G Diana Steen Jaeger, ΔK /Louisiana State; Stephanie Filardi, $\Delta \Phi$ /Tulane; Lisa Davis Olney, ΔE /Arizona State; and Gretchen Grindle Hurlbutt, $B \Omega$ /Colorado College, members of the Westchester Alumnae Chapter, took a morning walk on the trails of Rockefeller State Park Preserve in Sleepy Hollow, NY.

H Former educational leadership consultant (ELC) Holly Morris Luther, ΔO /Alabama, and her bridal party took a photo in front of the Delta Omicron Chapter facility. Pictured are Kateri Broussard, $Z \Omega$ /Loyola Marymount; Courtney Smith, Frances Fulton McBrayer, and Emily Bishop Key, all ΔO /Alabama; Luther; and Megan Harrison Lord, Carri Flanagan, and Lindsay Smith Anderson, all ΔO /Alabama.

I Sisters Kim and Kyle Anne Kiraly, both of Gamma Pi Chapter at Iowa State, did summer work in Japan on United States Naval Installations with military children. While there, the women fulfilled their life-long dream by climbing to the summit of Mount Fiji!

J Janice Geho Young, $A \Gamma$ /Ohio State, received the Theta of the Year Award from Marcie Willem Gagnon, $A \Omega$ /Pittsburgh, at the Columbus (OH) Founders Day celebration.

K Brenda Dorn Conard, $A \Gamma$ /Ohio State, and daughter-in-law Kate Petry Conard, $B \Xi$ /UCLA, are pictured at the Columbus (OH) Alumnae Chapter meeting. Kate met Brenda's son Tim while studying in

Sevilla, Spain!

L Carolyn Watson Kruger, A /DePauw; Beau Sweney Rezendes, $B I$ /Colorado; and Louise Lev Geil, $B I$ /Colorado, all members of the Flat Irons Alumnae Chapter, participated in the Bolder Boulder 10K. More than 51,000 participants ran and walked the course, which took them through the streets of Boulder and finished in the University of Colorado football stadium.

M Members of the Orange County Alumnae Chapter collected school supplies for CASA at their summer social.

Not Pictured

Boise Alumnae Chapter and Eta Eta Chapter at College of Idaho gathered for an event at Crane Creek Country Club in Boise.



KELSEY HOWEN, $E E$ /BAYLOR, was voted Greek Woman of the Year at Baylor University, after she competed against nominees from the nine other sororities on campus.



ELIZABETH STOLLOW, ΓZ /CONNECTICUT, was crowned Connecticut's 2009 Homecoming Queen.



Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels recently appointed **BETSY SIERK CORRIDAN**, $B O$ /IOWA, Fraternity executive director, as chairman of the Indiana Commission for Women. The Indiana Commission for Women is

a bi-partisan advisory commission of fourteen appointed members from across the state committed to the full participation of Indiana women in all aspects of society.

AMY FRUIT CONLEY, $A X$ /PURDUE, was promoted to vice-president, digital marketing strategy, at Sony Pictures.

Timothy and **SHARON WILLIAMS UBBEN**, A /DEPAUW, have brought more than 80

world leaders to DePauw University through the Ubben Lecture Series. Established in 1986, the series has included leaders such as Tony Blair, Spike Lee, Jesse Jackson, Lynne Cheney, Colin Powell, Jane Pauley, and Ralph Nader.

LEIGH HILDEBRAND, $E I$ /WESTMINSTER, serves as an assistant parliamentarian in the US Senate and is selected for the 111th Congress Stennis Congressional Staff



SHIRLEY LEWIS TRIBOLET, JANE WILLIAMSON BAILEY, SUZANNE RANSOM ROY, ELAINE MILLER STILB, ANN SMITH BLACK, LETITIA THURMAN COBBLE, LIBBY GREEN WELLES, HELEN EDWARDS OSBORNE, AND CHARLOTTE MEYERS BENZ, ALL OF BETA DELTA CHAPTER AT ARIZONA, CELEBRATED INDEPENDENCE DAY IN TUCSON.



THETA REUNIONS

A The class of 1988 from Beta Zeta Chapter at Oklahoma State took a snorkeling cruise together in Cabo San Lucas.

B The 1957 class of Alpha Chi Chapter met in Indianapolis for its 51st reunion. The women traveled to their former house on the Purdue campus, where they took a photo in the same order of their original pledge class picture. Pictured are (front) Marilyn Edmier Huseby, Linda Gast Fisher, (middle) Lessley Decker Wiles, June Weeks Patterson, Ellie Sisson Ypma, Lydia Martindale Troxler, Barb Bradley, (back) Judie Hargrave Corbett, Nancy Semler Sawrey, Barb Behn Lane, Karen Kail Smoots, Ellie Hobson Crawley, and

Sylvia Tessman Koridek.

C Eleven Theta alumnae celebrated the 40th birthday of Paige Fallis Perez, FX/Fresno State, in San Francisco.

D Delta Chapter alumnae from 1964-66 reunited at the Illinois facility this fall. Attending were Mary Bliss Dadant, Judith Adamson Knight, Carol Jackson Schultz, Mary McCarthy Gilbaugh, Mary Schaefer Drolet, Susan Fockler Meehan, Connie Fouts Livingston, Pam Foulks Wincup, Michele Rojek Olsen, Susan Osborn Jones, Doris Walton Mabry, Mary Black Hindman and Patty Brooks Leach.

E Natalia Beck, Nan Hall Stewart, Marge

Davis Morehead, Sue Healey Eynon, Joan Westmen Battey, Marilyn Shanks Klingaman, Marilyn Holtman Feters, Nancy Langsenkamp Frenzel, Betty Davis Givens, and Anne Emison Harmon, all alumnae of Alpha Chapter, held their 55th reunion at DePauw.

F The 1953 class of Rho/Nebraska held its 55th reunion in Omaha, Neb. Fifteen of the 26 graduating members attended, and the women plan to meet again in two years. Pictured are (front) Barbara Jean Anderson McKenzie, Helene Greene Follmer, Ginnie Noble Steen, Sandra Walt Condon, Shirley Moore Ebert, (back) Jane Fletcher Foote, Barbara Lucas Lewis, Mary Ann Worrall Leahy, Barbara Burdick Barchus, Mary Jean Neely

Fellows program: senior-level staff members of the United States Congress who work together to explore ways to improve effectiveness of those on Capitol Hill.

DR. TRACY I. GEORGE, Ω/UC BERKELEY, is in *Cambridge Who's Who* for her dedication, leadership, and excellence in medical research. George carries 14 years of medical experience and serves as the assistant professor of pathology at Stanford.

ALEXANDRA TORCH, B/INDIANA, has started *Truly Sisters Sorority Stationery*, with her family. Truly Sisters (www.truly-sisters.com) offers fresh, fun, modern, and chic stationery.

WHITMAN COLLEGE has recently appointed school alumna and award-winning communicator **MARY DEMING BARBER, ΔΔ/WHITMAN**, to its alumni board.

KARA SENNETT,

Φ/PACIFIC, showed her senior clothing collection at New York's *Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week* this September. Sennett attended the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

Art for the Nations is a nonprofit organization founded by **LISA BROCK AMBLER, AΘ/TEXAS**, that provides art supplies for US mission and service teams traveling all over the world. To learn more, head to www.art-fornations.org.

forthenations.org.

CAROL COMBS, T/NORTHWESTERN, was a major donor for the Omaha Home for the Boys' new Combs Learning Center Facility, providing classrooms, counseling rooms and office space. The home helps young adults transition from foster care, residential care settings, and homeless situations into supported independent living arrangements.

LAURA HODOS, EA/DICKINSON, has been cast in *Love is Love*, a musical revue directed by Tony-, Grammy-, and Emmy-award winning director Martin Charnin, known for co-creating the musical *Annie*. *Love is Love* takes audiences on a journey with 12 individuals grappling with the mysteries and complexities of love.

ELIZABETH OXLEY BAUMGARTEN, BN/FLORIDA STATE, has



Williams, Lee Ellen Creasman Matzke, Kathy Haskell Smith, Lois Gearhart Wohlner and Caroline Rogers Mills.

G Gamma Mu/Maryland alumnae Virginia "Gini" Gist Gray, Betsy Mouzon Butterfield, Marian Hamilton Fischer, Sarah Abplanalp Bourne, Sue Laffan Thompson, Dianna Reiff Kreutz, Eleanor "Ellie" Jacobson Knott, and Mary Ann Allison Elliott, met in February for lunch.

H Beta Sigma Chapter alumnae from SMU met at the chapter for a 50-year reunion. Pictured are **Laura Hamilton Roach, Marie Murphy Starling, Libby Robnett Meyers, Nell Nash Velvin, Cinnie Tate Norvell, and Lysle Barrows Mockler.**

I The Alpha Mu/Missouri initiation class of

1965 at held a 40th reunion, toured the recently decorated Alpha Mu facility, and headed to the Lake of the Ozarks for the weekend. Pictured are **Ellen Denning Smith, Janet O'Hanlon Gallaher, Diana Helms Roeck, Linda Johnson Clauson, Donna Pascoe Pohl, Sharon Lorch Del Pizzo, Regi Taylor Ahrens, Cindy Palmer Chesher, Judy Smith Huff, Katie Welch Luck, and Jane Gilmer Reichert.**

J A group of former Fraternity and Foundation officers met in Alexandria, Va., for a reunion weekend. The group is seen here with a Ben Franklin actor. Any former officer can be added to the reunion list by emailing jeniferl@comcast.net.

Not Pictured

Eleven 1959 **Kappa/Kansas** alumnae at

held a reunion weekend at the Elms Hotel in Excelsior Springs, Mo., the site of their new member weekend in 1959. In attendance were **Mary Olson Boyer, Mary McFerson Detmer, Judy Davies Fraley, Judy Raasch MacClelland, Jill Boxberger McGrew, Sherron Skaggs McReynolds, Julie Casterman Newlin, Anne Hoopingarner Ridder, Nancy Baber Shepard, Janet Clark Smith, and Sharon Mather Wagner.**

Louise Lochner Petrie, Sarah Anderson Boyd, Mary Fromhart Knake, Linda Bird Brown, Karna Small Bodman, Kay Mabley Lyons, Kathy Bennett Tonkel, and Helen Waller Roman, all Eta/Michigan, celebrated their nearly 50 years in Theta with a reunion in Naples, Fla.

started *My Busy Bucket* toy rental company. The company creates themed buckets filled with children's toys, books, DVDs, CDs, etc. Families purchase monthly plans to rent and return the buckets, avoiding the unnecessary purchases and clutter that come with toy burnout. To learn more, go to www.mybusybucket.com.

ABBEY WILSON, ZI/WASHINGTON & LEE, has been commissioned

by Washington & Lee Theatre to design the department's 2009-2010 season posters. Wilson's designs use printmaking to create visual imagery, and will be displayed at the university's *Kamen Gallery* in March 2010.

KRYSTINA ANDREWS, ΔΔ/WHITMAN, and CARLA ALO-CABALQUINTO, ΒΘ/IDAHO, volunteered with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship to serve Sudanese refugees in

Cairo. The women volunteered at Sudanese summer schools, provided clothing to new refugees, and taught English to the adults.

CAROLINE PORTER, T/NORTHWESTERN, has received the Fulbright Commission's scholarship for journalism. The Alistair Cooke Fulbright Award is only awarded to one US student annually. Porter will study multimedia journalism at the University of Ulster in

Northern Ireland.

JENSEN HART, ΑΗ/VANDERBILT, has been crowned Miss Tennessee International 2010, with a platform of global health issues. In July, she will compete for the Miss International title in Chicago.

DAGNY MCKINLEY, ΓΕ/WESTERN ONTARIO, author of *Wild Hearts: Dog Sledding the Rockies*, and her sled dog Alma Rose are hitting the road

to talk about the beauty of sled dogs and building self esteem through working outdoors. To learn more, visit <http://www.DogSleddingtheRockies.com>.

SUZANNE I. GAZZANIGA, ΒΕ/UCLA, was honored as a prosecutor of the year by the California District Attorneys Association. ♦



SPEAKING UP FOR CHILDREN

THETA'S WIDEST INFLUENCE FOR GOOD

BY LAURA KASSENBRICK, Γ/BUTLER

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and Kappa Alpha Theta. If you're a member of the Fraternity, the two seem almost inseparable, and rightfully so. Since 1989, when the Fraternity selected CASA as its international philanthropy, Thetas from Alberta to Austin have been raising funds and awareness for the United States' largest volunteer-based child advocacy group, contributing well over \$1 million and an eagerness to help children that only Thetas could demonstrate.

Although Thetas have flipped burgers at grill-offs or chalked sidewalks for Rock the CASA, many may have often wondered just how CASA got its start, who exactly the organization helps,

and—honestly—why Kappa Alpha Theta chose CASA as its philanthropy all those years ago.

As the 20th anniversary comes to a close, it's a the perfect opportunity to get nostalgic, to reflect on the Fraternity's history of giving back, its relationship with CASA, and our True Promise as Thetas to demonstrate the widest influence for good.

THETA'S PHILANTHROPIC HISTORY

The founding principle upon which Kappa Alpha Theta was founded was the development of social, intellectual, and moral growth among its members. In the early days, that growth meant

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learnabouttheta/
philanthropy/casa](http://www.kappaalphatheta.org/learnabouttheta/philanthropy/casa)



focusing on care for Thetas, ensuring their well-being and that of the budding Fraternity.

With the assistance of the Los Angeles Alumnae Chapter, the Fraternity founded the Scholarship Fund in 1907, which would become the Loan and Fellowship Fund in 1922. The Fund assisted members who needed help with the growing costs associated with a college education and became increasingly important during the world wars and the Great Depression.

As time went on and the Fraternity grew, Grand Council began to see that the membership had the potential, and the obligation, to make a lasting impact on the world, not just one another.

In 1946, delegates at Grand Convention approved the Institute of Logopedics, a treatment center for those with communication disorders, as the Fraternity's first national philanthropy. Over the next 40 years, Thetas would contribute more than \$1 million and seemingly endless gifts, service hours, and enthusiasm to help The Institute.

In 1988, the Fraternity was growing faster than ever, with chapters in both Canada and the US; however, The Institute made the decision to evolve into a specialized regional facility. The juxtaposition of the global expansion of the Fraternity with the regionalization of the Institute made the relationship less appropriate for both organizations' needs.

NATIONAL CASA IS ESTABLISHED

Around that time, several hundred eager volunteers were working to establish a service organization called the National Court Appointed Special Advocates Association.

The group was the brainchild of King County (Washington) Superior Court Judge David W. Soukup, who, in 1976, recruited a group of 50 volunteers over a brown-bag lunch in Seattle's General Court Counsel Room to discuss the future of neglected and abused children in the court system.

Judges are tasked with determining the fate of children in the system—whether they should remain with their parents, continue in foster care, or be adopted. These are decisions that have tremendous impact on a child's life; yet there are so many cases, so little information available, and so few people involved in making the decisions that many of the children in question can be overlooked or even completely forgotten.

Judge Soukup knew that the social workers, government employees, and members of the court system could not accurately understand and respond to the cases of the nearly half a million children that went through the child welfare system each year.

Frustrated, and feeling helpless, Soukup had an idea: Why not train people in the community to act as guardians ad litem (GAL)? The volun-

A MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY

For 20 years, Thetas have supported National CASA and its network of programs, speaking up for children and putting caring advocates into the lives of abused and neglected kids. At the same time, the mission of National CASA has become part of the fabric of Kappa Alpha Theta. "Speaking Up for Children," our new joint motto, describes the core principle of CASA and how Kappa Alpha Theta demonstrates the widest influence for good.

When Theta chose National CASA as its official philanthropy in 1989, it was a perfect fit. The Fraternity made a high-level commitment to support National CASA strategic initiatives. Members of Theta college and alumnae chapters immediately embraced their local CASA programs. As the CASA model has grown and spread across the country, fledgling programs have found a warm welcome and built-in base of support among Theta colleagues and alumnae.

We can quantify some of Theta's contributions. Since 1989, Kappa Alpha Theta has contributed nearly \$1 million toward National CASA public awareness, diversity outreach, and volunteer-retention initiatives. Some Theta contributions are harder to quantify. Thetas spend countless hours developing and executing fund-raisers and service projects on their campuses and in local communities, serving on boards and committees, and passionately spreading the word about CASA advocacy. Despite the current challenging economic times, Kappa Alpha Theta and CASA continue to speak up for children in need. By any measure, our relationship has been a huge success.

Thank you to the remarkable women of Kappa Alpha Theta for your 20 years of teamwork. We are looking forward to our next 20!

KATIE BUSBY,
Kappa Alpha Theta President
MICHAEL PIRAINO,
National CASA CEO

"YEAR IN AND YEAR OUT, KAPPA ALPHA THETA HAS BEEN OUR MOST CONSISTENT PARTNER IN IMPROVING THE LIVES OF ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN."

— MICHAEL S. PIRAINO, CEO NATIONAL CASA ASSOCIATION



teers would be assigned just one or two children and would research the cases, interview family members, and truly get to know each child, thereby giving the children a real voice in the court system. With this new power, the children would have a better chance to be placed in permanent, stable homes—giving them a brighter hope for the future.

The idea was simple, but extremely effective. So effective, in fact, that when National CASA was officially formed in 1982, 88 programs were already in existence. Just seven years later, in 1989, that number had quadrupled to include 376 programs and more than 12,000 volunteers.

THETA SEEKS AN INTERNATIONAL PHILANTHROPY

With the amicable decision between the Fraternity and the Institute of Logopedics to end their relationship in the fall of 1988, the Fraternity began reaching out to organizations identified by members as representing causes that aligned with the Fraternity's mission and goals.

Of those organizations, ten responded with an interest in working with the Fraternity. Each was required to prepare a proposal, focusing on organizational structure, the training and use of volunteers, and need for service in a broad geographical scope. The groups were also evaluated on their impact on women, overall societal need, opportunity for direct service, and ultimately, their need for the Fraternity's involvement.

Based on those criteria, the organizations were evaluated by members of the Foundation staff, Board of Trustees, Fraternity staff, and Grand Council, who narrowed the field. National Court Appointed Special Advocates, an organization now just seven years old, was in serious need of hands and funds. What's more, as an organization with a national scope, an emphasis on helping children, and a deep connection to developing women into outspoken community advocates, CASA seemed the perfect fit for Kappa Alpha Theta.

THE PARTNERSHIP BEGINS

When the two organizations first aligned in

1989, the focus was on growth of the National CASA program. The Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation appropriated \$136,000 in the first two years for public awareness and education, recognition, program support and growth, and development.

In those first years, Theta helped CASA develop an emotional poster campaign, video testimonials, and volunteer orientation kits. Monies also went to support the Program Director of the Year Award grants, which continue today. Theta also allowed CASA to set up and maintain an 800-number for programs to call for assistance.

Additionally, CASA had Theta's membership, then 103,000 strong, to serve as enthusiastic program ambassadors, volunteers, and fundraisers to help develop local programs and promote CASA within their own communities.

CASA TODAY AND TOMORROW

From those humble beginnings in 1989, both CASA and Theta have grown exponentially. Since 1989, Theta has added 107,000 initiated members and 30 college chapters. CASA has grown to include 1,000 programs in 49 states and 70,000 trained CASAs or GALs, assisting nearly 240,000 children in the court system annually.

But with that growth comes another expanding number. Last year alone, more than 780,000 children were served by the foster care system. The staggering increase in foster children accompanies the need not only for more CASA volunteers but also for those volunteers to be expertly trained to ensure that the children served by the court system don't fall back into the system.

To make the training process as consistent, efficient, and complete as possible, National CASA has developed a core training curriculum as well as a series of online training tools, including webinars, weekly podcasts, and a volunteer management program, to provide education and answer questions for volunteers 24 hours a day. This is increasingly important, as CASA volunteers now span six time zones.

Training is also important to ensure that volunteers are educated advocates for the programs in their communities and beyond. This year, CASA's annual training conference in Denver included more than 1,400 staff, volunteers, judges, and members of the child welfare community to promote child advocacy in the nation's capitol.

More recently, this advocacy has included support of the Fostering Connections to Success Act, which allows states to support foster children beyond the age of 18, until they reach 21, so that they can pursue educational and training opportunities.

Today, the funds raised by Theta chapters across North America go to fund and support all of these endeavors—the recruitment, support, and training of quality CASA volunteers—because the success and future of the organization truly starts and ends with them.

As Theta continues to support CASA, there's no denying the obstacles that are to come, and that's exactly the reason we need to look back and see just how far we've come together these past 20 years. Our work and progress together

is truly an inspiration.

"The principle of the widest influence for good has guided Thetas since the inception of our Fraternity, but our collaboration with CASA has really brought that principle to life," said Fraternity Vice-President Public Relations Kimi Morris Martin, AO/Oklahoma. "Together, Thetas work in their communities for their communities, and that hands-on service is something that stays with them for a lifetime. CASA is not the only party that benefits from this collaboration—every Theta is touched by CASA's mission."

For CASA, Theta is so much more than just another fund-raising organization. Without the assistance and dedication of each Theta member, it's hard to imagine how that young organization would have gotten off the ground two decades ago. And for Theta collegians and alumnae, CASA is so much more than just an international philanthropy they are required to serve; it is a chance to make a real difference in the lives of children across the United States.

It really has been a mutually beneficial relationship—one that will continue to build and sustain for the next 20 years and far beyond.

LAUREN'S STORY

BY LAUREN SMITH, Ω /AUBURN

When I was eight years old, things in my family turned very nasty very quickly. What had once been my home soon turned into just an empty building filled with lies, drugs, and abuse. I never imagined the life I knew would come crashing down the way it did.

I'll never forget the day my brother, sister, mother and I stood huddled together on our driveway; the day we watched as our furniture, car, and even appliances were loaded into trucks and taken from us. I remember how my mom grasped us to her with all of her might, and still to this day have no idea how she remained so composed.

Needless to say, we were left at square one. Obviously my mom needed a little help, and one day, we were introduced to a woman named Margaret. You know those people who come into your life and really blow you away? Well Margaret was that person for me. I felt so cool that my little eight-year-old self was best friends with a grown-up. Margaret would drive from Birmingham, Ala., to our home in Huntsville just to spend time with my brother, sister, and I. She immediately immersed herself in our lives, getting to know our neighbors, teachers, friends, and coaches.

It wasn't until I was in high school that I started to wonder just who this Margaret woman was. "She was from an organization called CASA," my mom told me. How was I so blessed to have this woman come into my life, and just what is CASA? So, I did what anyone would do: I Googled it.

I was so touched just by CASA's website. I

learned how my siblings and I stayed so protected, and certainly how my mom stayed so sane. Not only was this woman spending time with me, she was fighting for me in court. She stepped up to give my siblings and me a voice.

I like to think that I can sometimes channel Margaret's strength when I'm in difficult situations. She always taught my sister and me how to be ladies and would snap at my brother when he wasn't gentlemanly enough toward us. But even more important, Margaret taught us how to stay strong, have faith, and turn to those around us for support. Maybe deep down in my heart it's her teachings that led me to seek sisterhood in a sorority.

I'll never forget sitting in my Kappa Alpha Theta interview at Auburn with Fraternity President Katie Busby. I remember the vivacity in her voice when she told me all about Theta and the ideals for which it stood, but it was one sentence that hit me: "Our philanthropy is an organization called CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates." From that moment on, I knew Theta was home.

After growing up and becoming more educated about CASA, I am more grateful each day for Margaret. While I'm thankful to know that my brother, sister, and I are now in a safe custody situation, unfortunately there are still children who cry as desperately as I did.

I pray for all of the "Margarets" out there today. Because of their hard work and love, I have my home back, and without a doubt it's because of them that I can stand tall as the woman I've become. \diamond

A PASSION FOR CASA

"The impact on CASA of Theta's involvement is tremendous. In communities across our nation, there are Thetas who would like to get involved but don't know the need that exists. Conversely, there are more than 900 CASA programs across the US where Thetas can participate. In rural, suburban, and urban areas, there is a CASA program that can use extra help. There is a diverse range of ways to become active, and cumulatively, these efforts support a larger effort resulting in remarkable direct and indirect impact.

"CASA programs have a variety of needs. Most people do not understand the complexity of foster care, and as a result, community support of CASA on a large scale is limited. Thetas who want to get involved should contact the local CASA program and find out what support is needed. (Go to www.casaforchildren.org and enter your ZIP code to be connected with a program in your community.)

"If money is needed, putting on a special event is not the only option. Selling chocolates for Valentine's Day or pansies in the spring are simple and easy ways to raise money for CASA. Helping to recruit CASA volunteers might be a need, so spending an afternoon hanging posters might be a way to reach out. Maybe the hundreds of toys that were donated for a toy drive need to be organized, and the well-honed skills of a couple of task-oriented Thetas will do the trick.

"Again, the extra help is always needed, so there is always a way to help. More CASA volunteers are always needed, as there are only a handful of CASA programs that are able to serve 100 percent of the children waiting for a CASA volunteer."

ALLIE CHANG RAY, AM/MISSOURI, has served as executive director for CASA of St. Louis County since 2000.



GRAND CONVENTION 2010 JUNE 23 - 27, TUCSON, ARIZ.



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

Abundant sunshine as attendees arrive in Tucson. One hundred percent chance of fun as old and new friends mingle at the **Welcome Dinner**.



THURSDAY, JUNE 24

Theta stars will shine brightly at the **Foundation Luncheon** and the **College Chapter Recognition Dinner**. Cute shoes and dresses are forecast.



FRIDAY, JUNE 25

Conditions are unpredictable as Thetas enjoy a **free afternoon**. The evening features an optional **starlight walk** to benefit CASA.



SATURDAY, JUNE 26

Times of sisterhood and celebration at the **Alumnae Chapter Recognition Luncheon** and the **Convention Banquet**. Theta's twin stars shine day and night!



SUNDAY, JUNE 27

All conditions perfect for a bright future as Thetas travel home to share the knowledge and enthusiasm they gained at Convention.



I REMEMBER A

A THETA'S JOURNEY WITH AN INCURABLE BRAIN DISORDER

Some of my best memories from my earlier years are of being with my Kappa Alpha Theta buddies at the University of Texas at Austin. From the very beginning of recruitment, I knew they were my kind of gals—fun-loving, smart, and always up for a good laugh or adventure. I have the pictures to prove it. (I am sure a few of my pledge sisters have broken into a sweat right about now.)

I hail from the most excellent new member class – 1989. I am still in touch with most of my partners in crime from those four years in Austin. I loved getting to know my older sisters and then the younger ones as they came in during my time there. Life-long friendships.

Right after graduation, I headed to Los Angeles to work in the film and television business. I have been managing writers, directors, and novelists for almost twenty years now and am producing film and television, as well.

That brings us up to me at the age of 38.

JUNE 2008

In June of 2008, I was diagnosed with what some call a “mystery disorder.” I noticed some symptoms for about a year, but thought nothing of them until I attended a friend’s birthday party and one of my dearest friends remarked on how uncomfortable my neck looked. Yes, I had a crick in my neck that had not gone away for close to a year.

So, the search for a doctor began.

I knew what I had. And I knew what I had because my older brother has it, too, although his condition is much milder. I diagnosed myself due to the fact that there are far too many uninformed doctors. Don’t get me wrong, I am very bonded to many doctors, but it is undeniable that education in medical school needs to be readjusted.

MY disorder is called dystonia, and there are many presentations of it, from a twisting and turning of the neck and torso to losing the ability to use your mouth to generalized dystonia.

Dystonia is a movement disorder, a brain disorder. The CliffsNotes description: it involves misfirings from your brain (specifically the basal ganglia) to your muscles, thereby causing unwanted muscle spasms. The numbers of people affected by dystonia are wildly underestimated. I am willing to go out on a limb (in writing) to say that I believe that there are as many people with dystonia as there are with Parkinson’s disease. Although the latter is far more well-known and much more money is

devoted to Parkinson’s research and awareness.

After going from doctor to doctor in Los Angeles, I was finally referred to a specialist at USC Medical Center who was not taking patients. Those who know me will be able to envision what my e-mail to the doctor looked like; I crafted the most non-pathetic begging e-mail I have ever written in my entire life.

I got a call the next day and was in to see him the following week. YES, I had dystonia. YES, I had been repeatedly misdiagnosed by doctors who should know what it is. And finally, YES, a doctor had injected me with Botox (a nerve-blocker that is a treatment for dystonia) on the wrong side of my body. This even though my partner, Elizabeth, (who is a physical therapist and has much specialized knowledge of the human body) and I told him repeatedly at the time that we did not agree with the muscles he was injecting.

The minute I was officially diagnosed, all of my life’s fears fell away. Not only was I relieved, but I felt elated. I was elated after finding out that I had an incurable brain disorder. So some may wonder, “Why would this woman feel so positive and almost excited after being diagnosed with something so serious and so indescribably painful?”

The answer is simple. I had to help others. I had to help others who are not as resourceful and outspoken. I was immediately determined that once I was back on my feet (I was using a wheelchair and then a walker) that I would devote every waking moment (when not working) on supporting all of those people out there in the world who are undiagnosed, misdiagnosed, and in seclusion. Dystonia does not make one want to run out to the mall for all the world to see. There is a disfiguring element that can make one feel very self-conscious. It took me a while to get used to the staring, and I also realized early on that my appearance may cause people to think that I may have diminished mental faculties, as well. I was at a 90-degree angle, so I was hard to miss.

Never in my life did I think I would write a blog, but in January of 2009 I began writing.

JANUARY 2009

I wrote about my journey from the first day of the year, and it felt incredibly cathartic. A few months later, I was on the phone advising a client. My call waiting beeped, and I looked at Caller ID, and it said HARPO PRODUCTIONS. I clicked over, and the voice on the other end

DIFFERENT ME

BY ROGERS HARTMANN, AΘ/TEXAS



Rogers is as strong as ever and is fighting harder than I have ever seen her fight. She has become a national spokesperson for dystonia and has appeared on national television to educate and advocate. She is passionate about her new role as spokesperson—a role she never imagined—constantly working to help others with this disease.”

— Haley Gaskell Beckel, AΘ/Texas

Want more?

www.lifewithdystonia.com
www.cftexas.org/beatdystonia
beatdystonia@me.com





introduced herself to me and asked if I could be on a flight to Chicago on Thursday. It was Tuesday. I told her I was talking with a client and might I call her back. I think that may have been a first for her. The first show I was offered, I politely declined because I felt that it did not relate to my disorder enough. I imagine that was another first for Oprah Winfrey producers. Then two days later I was asked, "Would you consider being on with Michael J. Fox?" And the answer was, "YES."

There is a perfect reason why that was a "Yes" in capital letters. Dystonia and Parkinson's are related. Michael has it in his feet, as do some others with Parkinson's. We shot the show ... it was great. Oprah was kind and interested; Michael was a doll and spent time with me after the show. It was not only a no-brainer that I should do it, but I knew it would make a difference.

That day, the word *dystonia* was the number one Googled word in the world for six hours. THE POWER OF OPRAH. This was no longer a mystery disease, but there will still be years of work ahead to continue to educate as many people as possible. Dystonia can no longer be an orphan disorder.

The week that Oprah aired, I was also live with Meredith Vieira on *The Today Show*. They were kind enough to put me in their highest-rated time slot, and what was meant to be a five-minute segment turned into an 11-minute segment. Thank you, Meredith, for that. I have done other television interviews, but those are

the highlights to date.

In September of 2009, I was invited to speak at TED. If you do not know of TED (tag line: Riveting talks by remarkable people, free to the world), you are missing out. Go to www.ted.com.

TODAY

Through all of this (and as it continues), I have come to believe deeply that adversity, if approached in your own special way, can become a blessing. I see the world so differently. I remember a different me.

I am changed forever. I vow to myself and others that I will work for those with dystonia and any other malady or difficulty, that I will continue my efforts to demonstrate how the worst news can become a true and irreversible catharsis. Yes, it takes internal fortitude, but I think if you dig deep within yourself you can find core strength and build on it instead of focusing on suffering.

Facing my worst fear is checked off of the TO DO LIST on the fridge, and I will have to keep checking it off as I battle until we find a cure.

I am very invested in creating a new landscape for dystonia. I have a vision, and I am still developing exactly what that will look like, but every single day that I get out of bed with a groan and a long stretch, I feel happiness over how motivated I am to get this done. "This" = lofty goals that are attainable through a good attitude, hard work, and tenacity.



Far left: Hartmann waiting for Botox injections which will help block the misfirings from her brain; top left: Hartmann and two of her Alpha Theta sisters, Kim Roach Overall and Elizabeth Brooks, in the 1990s; above: as her symptoms progressed, the muscles on the right side of her body pulled Hartmann to a 90-degree angle; left: throughout multiple appointments with doctors and specialists, Hartmann retained an incredible sense of humor.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS ARE COURTESY OF BARBARA GREEN

I take all of my pills daily. I do physical therapy. I live day to day. I cherish the somewhat painful days and power through the excruciating days. I fight the fight. Essentially, my disorder is a tug of war between the muscles on my right side and the muscles on my left side. So, everyday I am rooting for the left side.

My family and my dear friends have been my foundation and have supported all of the decisions I have made along the way. Their unconditional love and support have made an immeasurable difference in this battle. I feel lucky to be so loved by them.

I also have to give huge credit to my two

pups, Lincoln and Wesley. They were with me when I was in bed for months and Elizabeth was traveling for work. I was thrilled that they probably thought I was just being lazy and they did not care at all (or stare) at my crooked body. Their sacrifice was not getting enough walks, but I think they have forgiven me.

Through all of this, I have continually heard from many of my Theta buddies, and they have been stellar in their words of encouragement. There are special friendships where even if you have not spoken in a long while, you pick up right where you left off. That is the essence of Theta for me. ♡

Anyone who meets Rogers knows one thing for sure ... she has a great sense of humor. She's definitely one of the funniest people I've ever met. But her humor is not her best or most important quality. She has stood up for the entire dystonia community. Her goal is to raise awareness and support for many people she has never even met. I am so proud of my friend."

— Jill Pratt Davenport, AΘ/Texas

DYSTONIA PRIMER

Dystonia is a neurological movement disorder. Most presentations cause extreme discomfort if not constant pain. All cause noticeable contortions in various parts of the body. Symptoms can progress and then plateau, they can progress and affect the entire body, and there is a chance of remission without any explanation.

Many forms are genetic, but not all. Some are caused by medications, physical trauma, infection and poisoning (i.e., lead poisoning).

The area of the brain that is the center of this disorder is called the basal ganglia. This is also the part of the brain that houses anxiety and stress.

Dystonia is related to Parkinson's disease and can often be mistaken for Parkinson's.

The most common presentations of dystonia are cervical dystonia (affecting the muscles of the neck and the torso), blepharospasm (leading to excessive blinking or loss of the use of the eyelids), oromandibular dystonia (involving the tongue and jaw), spasmodic dysphonia (compromising the larynx and causing the voice to be diminished, often to the point of whispering), generalized dystonia (potentially affecting all areas of the body; babies can be born with this disorder).

Just by reading this, you may now know more than most doctors.

BEAT DYSTONIA

I formed a non-profit fund called BEAT DYSTONIA, which is housed under an umbrella foundation that is considered to be one of the best. One percent goes to overhead for the foundation. All other monies raised are for research. Beat Dystonia is not associated with any dystonia foundation or pharmaceutical company.

MY DREAM INTERNSHIP

BY ASHLEN SNELLEN, AM/MISSOURI

As we sat—in the front row—at the Zach Posen 2010 Resort fashion show, the designer editor at the *Tobe Report* whispered to me, “That’s Hal Rubenstein of *InStyle* magazine, and that is the president of Fashion Group International.” I was smiling so big my cheeks hurt. I’d come from the heart of the Midwest to New York City, the center of American fashion. I was sure I had made it, and that was without knowing that the next day I would be in the studio with Michael Kors and later in the week watching *Vogue’s* Style.com photo shoot at Vera Wang.

The Tobe Report, a division of the Doneger Group, is a fashion forecasting, retail consulting, and analysis group, and the home of my dream internship for the summer. Katelin Reddick, former president of the Gamma Psi chapter at TCU, had introduced me to the company. After entering the big glass doors the first day, I was shown to my very own cubicle overlooking Seventh Avenue, also known as Fashion Ave.

Life in the city was fabulous. One day I would be assigned to Bryant Park or Union Square to take pictures of the people of New York for “street scenes.” The next, I would be flipping through thousands of runway images from New York, Paris, and Milan, pulling looks of certain trends. Some days I would leave the office and go off-site for Tobe’s trend presentations given to groups of design teams. I attended men’s trade shows and saw inside countless showrooms in the garment district. Doneger even asked me to help them choose the specific colors for their Spring 2010 color palettes.

Once July began, so did Christmas at Liz Claiborne. A Christmas tree surrounded by presents could be seen in the window from the street. The showroom was overflowing with a vibrant “Christmas by Isaac” feeling. While following editors to view holiday sweaters in the Claiborne collection, the other interns and I were given small hot-pink boxes filled with chocolate before leaving. There was never a dull day at the *Tobe Report*.

In retail consulting, shopping is included in the job description. In order to advise Tobe clients, it is necessary for the editors to be informed of store merchandise and best-selling items. I’ll never forget the morning the entire office halted all work and rushed off at once down the street to shop a jewelry sample sale. Not surprisingly, we all returned to the office with new jewels.

Although there are millions of people in New York City, it doesn’t take a lot for it to seem like a much smaller place. Walking on the sidewalks and stopping at traffic lights, the average New Yorker has the possibility of encountering thousands of different people in a day. I started a conversation with only one person this summer while waiting for a stoplight. We didn’t know it at the time, but we are both Thetas.



Ashlen Snellen, AM/Missouri.

She is from the Delta Chi Chapter at Virginia and was in New York for the summer enjoying a design internship at Ralph Lauren. We were also living in the same building and have close mutual friends at Mizzou. My summer would not have been complete without her friendship and the common bond we shared in the city.

After a few weeks in the Big Apple, I began to miss the Midwest. Again luck would have it that a Theta alumna, Nancy Sommer, also from Mizzou, worked right up the street as senior merchandiser for Juicy Couture Baby. Enjoying salads in Herald Square over lunch, we talked about her Missouri Theta memories. It was so wonderful to be able to have someone that could slow down the daily pace of the city and relate to life back home.

At the end of the summer, I was offered the opportunity to return to the city for the first ever Fashion’s Night Out and New York Fashion Week. When I came back a month later for the shows, I really could not believe I was sitting in the runway tents at Bryant Park. Gazing across the aisle at celebrities and amid powerful fashion industry professionals at Lacoste, a few tears of joy streamed down my smiling face. This was everything I had worked for.

Now on the train waiting to depart one last time from Grand Central Terminal, all six bags in tow, I can’t help but to reflect on my perfect fashion-filled summer. I say perfect in reference to my twentieth story apartment a few blocks from Midtown, embracing 25 straight days of rain, accomplishing a dream, and the fairy-tale sunset over the Hudson River on my final night. And perfect because, if my experiences taught me anything this summer, it is to never forget that wherever life leads you, even if it is to a city of millions, there is a Theta friend close by. ♦

THE TOBE REPORT

An international weekly publication, the *Tobe Report* was first published in 1927. According to Wikipedia, it is one of the world’s most prestigious fashion merchandising consulting companies. The *Tobe Report* covers women, men, and children’s ready-to-wear and accessories and forecasts trends through analysis of consumer behavior and retail intelligence.

“Never forget that wherever life leads you, even if it is to a city of millions, there is a Theta friend close by.”



Joan Ganz Cooney, BΔ/Arizona, and friends.

KAPPA ALPHA THETA'S TRUE PROMISE IS A VOW, A TWO-WAY PLEDGE BETWEEN THE FRATERNITY AND EACH OF HER MEMBERS. IT IS UP TO EACH THETA TO DISCOVER AND FULFILL THE PROMISE WITHIN HERSELF. SO, TOO, IS IT UP TO EACH THETA TO DETERMINE WHAT THE FRATERNITY WILL MEAN TO HER AND HOW HER MEMBERSHIP WILL CONTRIBUTE TO HER LIFE.

HOW WILL YOU LIVE OUT YOUR TRUE PROMISE?

JOAN GANZ COONEY, BETA DELTA/ARIZONA, IS A KAPPA ALPHA THETA WOMAN OF TRUE PROMISE.

Joan Ganz Cooney didn't leave home for the Big Apple with the intention of starting a media empire, but that's just what she accomplished.

After graduating from the University of Arizona with a degree in education, Cooney began a career in media, working first as a reporter for *The Arizona Republic* before moving to New York City to write for television.

In 1964, Cooney combined her degree in education with her media experience to found the Children's Television Workshop (now Sesame Workshop) and create a program called Sesame Street. Since its debut in 1969, the show has pro-

vided an unparalleled cultural learning experience to children everywhere, and as a result, Cooney has been regarded as a leading force in children's education. A recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Cooney is also an inductee into the National Women's Hall of Fame. The Joan Ganz Cooney Center, founded in 2007 by Sesame Workshop, is fostering innovation in children's learning through digital media.

As an alumna, there are few who have worked more diligently to honor the social, intellectual, and moral growth not only of themselves, but also of future generations. How will you share your True Promise? ♦

There is a young and impressionable mind out there that is hungry for information. It has latched on to an electronic tube as a main source of nourishment."

LIFE CHOICES

HANNAH VIRGINIA FITCH SHAW WAS A SCHOLAR, MUSICIAN, WIFE, MOTHER, VOLUNTEER, AND INVENTOR

**BY MARY EDITH ESTES ARNOLD,
AM/MISSOURI, FRATERNITY ARCHIVIST**

A college essay written by Hannah Virginia Fitch (called Jennie by friends and family) tells us much about this founder and her thoughts on women and their interests and talents. In *Choosing an Occupation*, young Hannah wrote, "It is the privilege of all to enter upon any trade or profession for which they are qualified ... every one who possesses the natural abilities requisite for the study of law, medicine or theology, or ... an aptitude for any trade or mercantile pursuit, or ... talent for music, painting or any other art, has the right to prepare herself for usefulness and honor."

She also stated, "Whatever apology may be made for laziness, there is no one who will say that it needs further cultivation or encouragement since the supply already exceeds the demand." Obviously, she had a wry sense of humor along with high expectations.

Lazy never could have been used to describe Jennie Fitch! Though a quiet girl, she eagerly came to Asbury in January 1869 expecting a rich, full life enhanced with intellectual and friendly companionship. However, she was lonely and sorely disappointed her first semester. Among the few women at Asbury, those she knew best were not available after the school day. Bettie Locke was tending to family needs, as her mother was not well, and Alice Allen returned to her country home each day. Bettie Tipton had not yet arrived.

The founding of Kappa Alpha Theta marked a turning point in Hannah Fitch's life. It was she who carried the fledgling movement forward when Bettie and Alice graduated and Bettie Tipton went on to Millersburg College. Fraternity historian Estelle Riddle Dodge wrote, "Hannah Fitch was ... the one person whose bravery and determination carried Theta through the discouraging early years and paved the way for the establishment of chapters whose strength gave Theta permanence."

"Theta was Hannah Fitch's inspiration, and she worked for it with all her strength. She forgot ... her timidity in her zeal for her fraternity. She became a leader in college, and a girl who left her mark upon her world."

Jennie Fitch met fellow student Archibald Shaw at Asbury, and they married after she graduated in 1873. The Shaws had eight children. In addition to homemaking, Jennie was active in church, music, literary and historical groups. She was forever proud of the role Kappa Alpha Theta played in the early days of coeducation. The women's fraternity movement—which had started as an experiment—proved successful, spread to other campuses, and helped make college education for women less controversial.

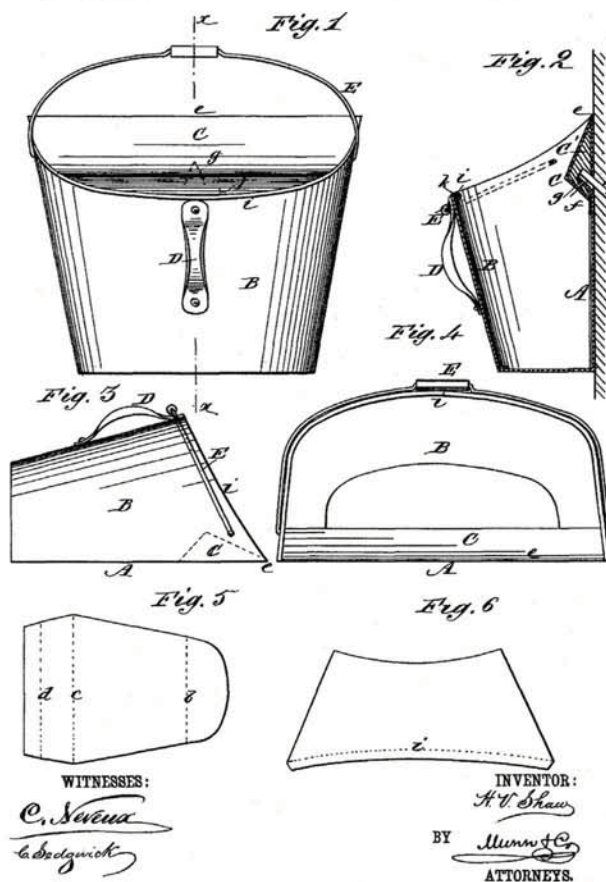
(No Model.)

H. V. SHAW.

DUST PAN.

No. 341,175.

Patented May 4, 1886.



As Archibald Shaw wrote later, "The four girls that banded themselves together and wore the badge of the organization that morning in chapel builded [sic] wiser than they knew, as people often do when initiating a revolution."

Hannah V. Shaw earned an master of arts degree in 1876 and continued to be a scholar, writer, musician and innovator throughout her lifetime. In 1886, she applied for and received a United States Patent for a "... new and improved Dust-Pan" that had multiple purposes: collecting and holding dust efficiently, removing excess water while wet-mopping, and holding small bits of debris when attached to the wall as a decorative wall pocket. Eight children can raise a lot of dust, and Jennie no doubt used her invention daily!

Hannah Virginia Fitch Shaw believed it was her duty to use her interests, skills, and talents in all ways possible. And that she did. It was a part of her moral fiber. ♦

A THETA OF FIRSTS

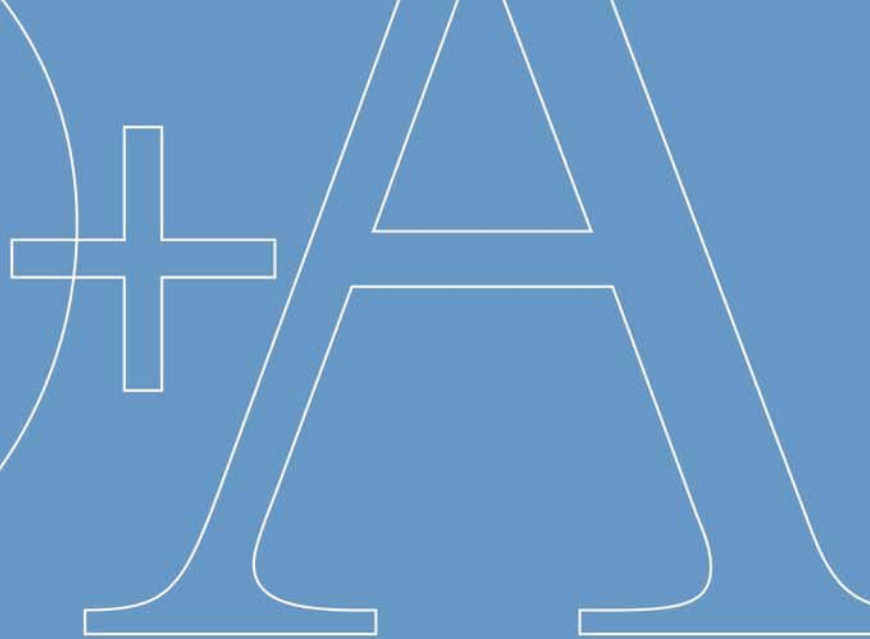
In addition to co-founding Kappa Alpha Theta and holding US Patent Number 341,175, Hannah Fitch Shaw also founded the Philomathean Literary Society—open to all girls at Asbury—and was its first president.

Whatever apology may be made for laziness, there is no one who will say that it needs further cultivation or encouragement since the supply already exceeds the demand."

Want more?

[www.kappaalphatheta.org/Resources/
EducationalResources/TheFirstCoeds](http://www.kappaalphatheta.org/Resources/EducationalResources/TheFirstCoeds)

ROMY FINEROFF TAORMINA A THETA OF NOTE



ROMY FINEROFF TAORMINA, ZETA THETA/CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE, IS CO-FOUNDER OF PSI BANDS. THESE ARE FDA-CLEARED ACUPRESSURE WRIST BANDS FOR THE RELIEF OF NAUSEA DUE TO MORNING SICKNESS, MOTION SICKNESS, CHEMOTHERAPY, AND ANESTHESIA. TAORMINA AND HER BUSINESS PARTNER RECENTLY RECEIVED THE 2009 TRAILBLAZER AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN *continued*

Business Owners (NAWBO) and Wells Fargo. The award is presented annually to the nation's three leading women business owners.

WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR PSI BANDS?

Most people are familiar with the saying, "Necessity is the mother of invention," and in the case of Psi Bands, this expression is literally true. Psi Bands were conceived by my co-founder Carla Falcone and me after commiserating about the lack of fashionable and functional acupressure wrist bands to relieve our severe morning sickness. Psi Bands were "born" as a result.

WAS YOUR DECISION TO NAME THE PRODUCT AFTER A LETTER IN THE GREEK ALPHABET AFFECTED BY YOUR THETA MEMBERSHIP?

No, but I certainly remarked on the association. "Psi Bands" are pronounced "sigh bands," as in "Breathe a 'psi' of relief." PSI is also the acronym for pounds per square inch, a unit of pressure (as in acupressure wrist bands).

IF YOU WERE NOT DOING THIS, WHAT PROFESSION OTHER THAN YOUR OWN WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEMPT?

I love what I do. But, if I was not growing the Psi Bands business, maybe I would write a book for first-time entrepreneurs. I receive many business inquiries from fellow entrepreneurs

and I would welcome the opportunity to help them on a widespread basis.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

Raising two young boys with strong morals and Psi Bands' launch and growth.

WHAT WORD OR PHRASE DO YOU PROBABLY OVERUSE?

With my children, it is "How do we become better at something? Practice."
In business, it would be "There will be bumps. Savor the journey."

WHAT TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

The ability to dance.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?

Sushi.

WHAT IS YOUR LEAST FAVORITE FOOD?

Brussels sprouts.

WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST THETA MEMORY?

A culmination of all memories leading up to life-long friendships.



IN THE NEWS

Psi Bands have been featured in *O, The Oprah Magazine*; *Self*; *Everyday With Rachel Ray*; and *Fit Pregnancy* magazines.

Want more? Visit the Psi Band website, www.psibands.com.

THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING CHAPTER

BY BRELAND CEDERBERG,
AN/MONTANA

On December 28, 2008, the facility management advisor walked into the Alpha Nu Chapter house to find four inches of water in the kitchen. A broken pipe under the sink was pumping out water, the carpet throughout the dining room was squishy, and condensation clung to the walls. Advisory Board Chairman Suzanne Morin Peterson, Alpha Nu/Montana, noted, "This is not the way I wanted to remodel the kitchen, but it needed to be done."

This started the long, but ultimately successful, story of "The Sisterhood of the Traveling House."

As damages were further assessed last December, it became clear that the facility would not be anywhere near ready to house Thetas for the spring semester. There were 13 broken pipes throughout the house and more than \$100,000 worth of damage. Advisors Suzanne Peterson and Gael Mullen Harris, Alpha Nu/Montana, began exploring any options they could think of to house the 20 live-in members planning to move back home to Theta just three weeks later.

After a few days of brainstorming and panic, the perfect solution came to life. The Beta Phi Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma, across the street, opened its doors and hearts to us, inviting all of the live-in members to bunk in their facility until the Theta house was habitable again.

As chapter president, I knew it was not an ideal situation for members of either chapter. But we were just thankful to have somewhere to live and to be able to stay together. And it was the best and only solution to the crisis Alpha Nu was facing and ended up to be very beneficial for both chapters. A team of movers transferred all of the Thetas' belongings to the Kappa house so it was ready when members came back from winter break. Members who were in town got together to clean out the basement area and create an action plan for facility rules and safety issues. This ensured a smooth transition into the new living situation for sisters coming back from out-of-town winter breaks.

Alumnae from both chapters teamed up to create an "orientation night" during the first week everyone was living together. The night was themed "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." A member from each chapter traded "goodie bags" with a member from the other sorority and, in many cases, traded a hug as well. The alumnae created and performed an entertaining skit that stressed the importance of continued individuality of each house and at the same time promoted



An orientation night helped Thetas and Kappas adjust to their five-week slumber party.

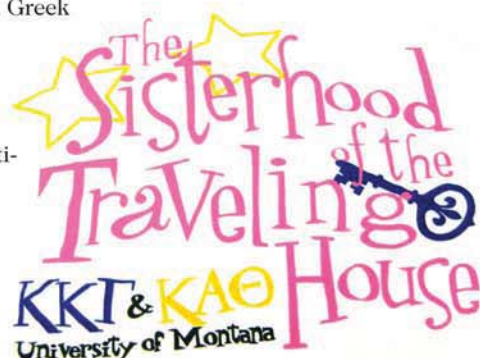
this as an ideal opportunity to grow as a Greek community.

Kayla Hoggatt, Kappa's president, and I met weekly to clear up any inter-house concerns and plan dinner themes or small weekly activities to initiate strong relations between members. We Thetas moved our chapter meeting to the University Center on campus to give both chapters space to conduct business and ritual as needed.

House chores were modified so every woman had responsibility and the facility was kept clean. The chapters' cooks planned and carried out meals together, resulting in great recipe exchanges and money-saving tips for both houses. The facility directors worked together to ensure the facility was safe and clean, and each earned a few weekends off while the other director held down the fort. Most importantly, dear friendships were formed and continue today, even though we have moved back home to the Theta facility.

The Alpha Nu women became even more of a tight-knit group than before. We learned how to live with twice as many women who didn't necessarily share the same ideals. Members from both chapters learned time management through alterations of study areas, shower times and basic house procedures. Both chapters gave and received tips on similar procedures, including laundry sign up and chore boards.

Five weeks of 43 women living together generated many fond memories and—of course—a T-shirt for every member with her chapter's letters on the front and the slogan "Sisterhood of the Traveling House" on the back. Community members and university faculty members recognized the shirts and quizzed our members about the results of the five-week slumber party, only to find out it was a good time and a bonding opportunity for both houses and the Greek community. ♦



We were just thankful to have somewhere to live and to be able to stay together."

Want to know more about the Alpha Nu Chapter?
www.kappaalphatheta.org/chapters/alphanu/

www.kappaalphathetafoundation.org

Whether you **give**, **receive** or **share**, you help make our mission possible. Find out more online!



give

In 2008 the Pansy Patch raised over \$42,000 for the Foundation with over 8,400 pansies covering the walls at Convention. District 9 alumnae, collegians, and chapters purchased the most pansies of any Theta district and the Eta Nu/Lake Forest College chapter won the college chapter challenge with 100% participation! Pansy Patch is back by popular demand, as the Foundation's 2010 Grand Convention fundraiser! Start saving your money now and get ready to give pansies in honor of Theta sisters. In February click the **GIVE** button on the Foundation website to learn how you can participate.



receive

Trying to make your academic dreams a reality? The Theta Foundation can help. Thanks to a number of generous donors, the Foundation is able to provide scholarships to Thetas in good standing for undergraduate and graduate education. Scholarship applications for the 2010-2011 academic year are available online now and must be submitted by February 1, 2010. Remember, you can't receive a scholarship if you don't apply. Check out the **RECEIVE** section of the Foundation website.



share

When you share the reasons you support the Foundation you become more than a donor, you become a Foundation advocate. One way to be an advocate is by making a gift in honor of a sister. You can make a gift in honor of her birthday, wedding, the birth of a child or even just because. You support Foundation programs, your friend receives a special card and you spread the word about the Foundation's work. You can also be an advocate by clicking the **SHARE** button and telling your Foundation story.



Who We Are

The **Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation** is a charitable and educational tax-exempt organization, separate and independent from the Fraternity. **Our mission is to link Thetas with resources to help them reach their fullest potential and make a difference in the world.** Created by Thetas, for Thetas, the Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation is dedicated to raising money for scholarships, educational and leadership grants, and financial hardship grants for our Kappa Alpha Theta members to achieve their personal and professional dreams.

STORIES THAT CONNECT US

ONE OF THE WAYS WE CELEBRATE THETA IS THROUGH SHARED STORIES. THESE INVOLVE NOT ONLY COMMON MEMORIES (“REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN WE...?”) THAT WE MIGHT SHARE WITH A SISTER FROM OUR OWN CHAPTER, BUT ALSO EVENTS FAMILIAR TO ALL THETAS (“REMEMBER YOUR INITIATION SERVICE?”).

Our Theta stories connect us, across continents, decades, and experiences. One way for us to share stories is through blogs on the Fraternity’s website. A blog (a contraction of the term “web log”), is an online diary, and the Fraternity’s bloggers regularly write about their Theta lives as educational leadership consultants, current collegian, and alumna, sharing commentary and photos.

On November 19, **Taylor Rausch, AM/Missouri**, wrote: “I was the apple of my parents’ eyes. Over a year in the making.

“And then came my sister ... 14 months later. Now the parents had two babies on their hands.

“Meredith learned that she could beat me up at approximately five months. I was the red-headed awkward child with that toothy grin and Pippi Longstocking pigtails. She always had sun-kissed skin, bleach-blond hair, and big eyes wildly disproportionate to the rest of her face. She also had a way of crying that made everyone want to hold her as opposed to the typical response of plugging one’s ears.

“So, anyway, we fought like the dickens through high school. I went through a phase where I wanted my hair French braided each day; she made sure to pull and tug and extract as many pieces of hair as possible. She went through a phase where she thought she was the dumb one, and I made sure to exploit my academic abilities.

“By the time senior year rolled around, we liked each other better. Leaving my childhood sidekick when I left for Missouri was as difficult as leaving my parents.

“And then the unthinkable happened. Meredith came to Missouri—making her the second Zionsville girl to become a Mizzou tiger. And then the unthinkable of the unthinkable: Meredith chose to be a Theta.

“There is something special about Theta legacy, but something even more special about the fact that I have been able to share three years of Theta-life with my sister.

“We certainly lucked out. We have been able to see each other grow and discover ourselves throughout these formative years. A little taste of home in a place where there aren’t too many Hoosiers to speak of. Sisters squared we are.”

A native of Zionsville, Ind., Rausch writes about her experiences as a senior at the University of Missouri, applying to law school.

On October 27, **Whitney Scott, Delta Theta/Florida**, wrote: “I recently visited the Gamma Tau Chapter at the the University of Tulsa. The members of the chapter are absolutely adorable and welcomed me with open arms. I was able to tour the city of Tulsa and see all of the beautiful real estate. I was informed that Garth Brooks, the country singer, is a resident of Tulsa. I kept a lookout when I was in the airport ... you never know! It was a wonderful visit, getting to know the chapter members and understand the rich UT history. Go Golden Hurricanes!”

An educational leadership consultant (ELC) for Theta, Scott writes about her experiences helping the re-established Gamma Omega Chapter at Auburn and visiting other college chapters.

On September 17, alumna **Alana Edmunds, Chi/Syracuse**, wrote: “Officially a Texan (for six months at least!) When I was little, I wanted to be a oceanographer when I grew up.

“It’s interesting how certain aspects of your life turn out differently than you would have imagined it when you were younger.

“Take, for example, my life right now: I relocate every six months for my job. Sure, packing/unpacking can be a challenge, but the real challenge is making a new group of friends every six months.

“Last weekend, I moved into a new apartment (and a new project at work!) in Houston, Texas. Immediately, I signed up to be a member of the Houston Alumnae Chapter. It’s a great way to get to know a new set of Thetas, and the Houston Alumnae Chapter organizes a huge event every year, The Theta Charity Antiques Show, which is considered one of the top three antiques shows in the country! The event has donated over \$5.5 million dollars to medical research, cultural arts, and educational endeavors in the Houston area since its inception.”

A systems analyst with a Fortune 5 company, Edmunds often blogs about social networking.

On September 2, alumna **Heather Payne, Gamma Epsilon/Western Ontario**, wrote: “Hello from China!

“I am writing from my new home of Xiamen, China, where I will be living for the better part of the next two years. You’re probably wondering how that happened. Actually, there have been a few moments in the past few weeks that made me wonder that myself...

“My undergraduate degree is in business

Want to read Theta's blogs?
Go to www.kappaalpha-theta.org/Community



Scenes from our bloggers' lives. Left: Taylor Rausch and her sister, Meredith, both AM/Missouri, in their Barbie car; center, Alana Edmunds, X/Syracuse, and her friend Ashley at the Gala Preview Party for Houston Alumnae Chapter's antiques show; right: Heather Payne, ΓE/Western Ontario, in Hong Kong.

administration, and over the years we have spent countless hours talking about China and how a solid understanding of Chinese language and culture could one day be a major asset. After travelling to several cities in China, I decided that, in fact, I could live there for a few years ... so now, here am!

"Although it hasn't been easy so far, I am very excited. My roommate is a wonderful girl from Austria, and she and I get along very well. (It reminds me of my time living in the Gamma Epsilon Chapter facility, except with an *en suite* bathroom!) Plus, the campus is beautiful—great architecture, lots of palm trees, and there is even a lake in the middle. Oh, did I mention that there is also a very nice white sand beach 100 yards from my dorm? It's certainly not something I think of when I think of China but I must say I'm a fan, especially because Xiamen is incredibly hot and humid, particularly for me. I'm Canadian, after all!

"I am excited to see how the next few months unfold. The next two years are going to be challenging, but I hope this becomes one of those experiences that, afterward, I cherish forever."

Currently earning a Master of law degree in international relations, Payne writes about figuring out life in China and how Theta is just as important to her now as it ever was.

On April 3, Taryn Dorfman, Eta Theta/Central Florida, wrote: "The educational leadership consultants have officially arrived at Auburn University in Auburn, Ala.! We are all here to serve on the installation team for the re-establishment of the Gamma Omega Chapter.

"It was a long day yesterday as we landed at the Atlanta airport from different parts of the country. The delays and airport craziness that we have all become accustomed to caused a few of us to miss the first Loyalty Service. In true ELC fashion, the other half of the team

conducted the service, and the show went on as planned. Caroline, Jaryn, and Mallory are the three ELCs who are based here at Auburn. They have been here since January and have spent the last several weeks preparing the new members for initiation. With initiation tomorrow, I know I speak for many when I say that we are all proud and excited to welcome 122 new members into this amazing sisterhood!"

Dorfman, now in her second year as an ELC, writes about her experiences on the road, visiting Theta college chapters.

Through their online posts, our bloggers celebrate Theta and what it means in their lives. Their enthusiasm is infectious! And because blogging—like a fraternity—is at its best when it's interactive, readers have the opportunity to comment on each post. To check out our Theta bloggers, log into www.kappaalphatheta.org, choose the Community link near the top of the page, and then click on Alumnae Blog, ELC Blog, or Collegians Blog. ♦

It is impossible for me to explain what a sorority is, and what Kappa Alpha Theta is, using only words. At the risk of sounding cheesy ... it's just one of those things you have to feel and experience for yourself.

"It's the only way to really 'get it'."

— Heather Payne, ΓE/Western Ontario

A/DEPAUW

Joan Phillips Harrison; 1944, June 2009
Margaret Ramey Kinnear; 1936, August 2009

B/INDIANA

Mary Hunter Kronstadt; 1955, November 2008

Δ/ILLINOIS

Helen Wilson Schildhammer; 1938, July 2009

H/MICHIGAN

Lynne Reinhardt Dawson; 1968, February 2009

I/CORNELL

Barbara Benson Mansell; 1938, July 2009
Frances Josephine Biddle McMeen; 1934, Sept. 2007

K/KANSAS

Marjorie Stevens Giles; 1931, September 2009
Ann King Mertel; 1951, April 2009
Mary Jane Shockley Stilwell; 1936, August 2009

Λ/VERMONT

June Swanson Jones; 1939, June 2009

ΓΔ/OHIO WESLEYAN

Barbara Gray Barry; 1947, May 2009
Beverly Hubbard Blackford; 1928, June 2009

N/HANOVER

Carrie Lynn Van Norstran; 1992, August 2008

O/USC

Linda Stone Collins; 1957, February 2008

P/NEBRASKA

Connie Allen; 1957, August 2003
Coll Quigley Kamprath; 1945, June 2009
Elizabeth Taylor Ketzler; 1945, July 2009
Carolyn Link McCabe; 1933, August 2009
Diane Smith Swaim; 1960, December 2008

T/NORTHWESTERN

Janice Warren Shook; 1946, September 2009

Y/MINNESOTA

Mary Amberg; 1951, September 2009
Patricia Russell Dunne; 1947, February 2009
Catherine Ludwig Palmer; 1934, November 2007
Margaret Bean Piper; 1938, February 2009

ΑΓ/OHIO STATE

Mary Winans Bellingham; 1933, July 2009
Elizabeth Anne Swaim Mahon; 1945, Sept. 2009
Joan Menchhofer McVay; 1957, June 2009
Beatrice Benfer Sanders; 1945, August 2009
Ruth Crabill Young; 1928, July 2009

ΑΗ/VANDERBILT

Susan Cheek Eason; 1938, August 2009
Elinor C. Ewing; 1931, June 2009
Ann Hardeman Fort; 1941, August 2009
Elizabeth Nesbitt Krebs; 1976, July 2009
Grace Trammell Murphy; 1949, May 2009

ΑΘ/TEXAS

Marguerite Walling Butler; 1940, August 2009
Mary Frances Bowles Couper; 1932, August 2009
Sallie Klep Hatten; 1958, September 2009

ΑΙ/WASHINGTON-ST. LOUIS

Mary Wilson Skinner; 1938, August 2009
Barbara Moore Weber; 1938, January 2009

ΑΚ/ADELPHI

Frances Gilkes Bowne; 1944, June 2009

ΑΛ/WASHINGTON

Olive Moore Reynolds; 1935, February 2009

ΑΜ/MISSOURI

Frances Fontaine Love; 1939, July 2009

ΑΝ/MONTANA

Doris Degnan Moriarty; 1937, September 2008

ΑΞ/OREGON

Patricia Nickell Benshoof; 1940, December 2008
Jayne Bowerman Hall; 1936, April 2009
Evelyn Beebe Shirk; 1933, August 2009
Ann Johnston Swindells; 1954, January 2009

ΑΟ/OKLAHOMA

Greta Miller Arrington; 1955, August 2009
Edyth Dandridge Draper; 1944, June 2009
Nancy Broadus Feild; 1948, April 2009
Dorthlynn Dent Gaddis; 1959, September 2009
Lucy Fellers Grant; 1936, June 2008
Lucy Fowler Kellow Klopp; 1943, August 2009
Jo Ellen Griffin Neely; 1955, July 2009
Virginia Fowler Nelson; 1942, April 2007

ΑΡ/SOUTH DAKOTA

Mary Schumacher Hackett; 1951, July 2009
Mary Smith Hersrud; 1936, August 2009
Elizabeth W. Lias; 2008, September 2009

ΑΣ/WASHINGTON STATE

Annie-Claire Malingre Miller; 1958, June 2008
Dorothy Jackson Prehm; 1949, August 2009

ΑΦ/TULANE

Patricia Doherty Bartlett; 1951, September 2009
Louise (Sister Clare) Meyer; 1925, December 2008

ΑΧ/PURDUE

Betty Brant Fisher; 1952, July 2009
Mary Vajner Keller; 1956, May 2009
Jean Burgess Nold; 1945, July 2009
Marjorie Vaughan Price; 1944, August 2009

ΑΨ/LAWRENCE

Jane Cole Hallock; 1949, July 2009
Betty Ackerman Walecka; 1949, June 2009

ΒΓ/COLORADO STATE

Janice Hess Golder; 1954, December 2008
Ruth Pyke Randall; 1951, August 2009

ΒΔ/ARIZONA

Janet Barnes Meyer; 1950, August 2009

ΒΕ/OREGON STATE

Margaret McMaster Brown; 1930, May 2008

ΒΗ/PENNSYLVANIA

Millyann Cantrell Barnhorst; 1945, September 2009

ΒΘ/IDAHO

Mary Bell Bennett Backlund; 1936, September 2009
Mary Hartley Crowe; 1933, August 2009
Sally Kuhlman McMurray; 1949, April 2009

ΒΛ/WILLIAM & MARY

Laura Barro Van Schooneveld; 1996, Nov. 2008

ΒΜ/NEVADA

Ellen Reed Beede; 1943, July 2009
Bette Cochran Dodge; 1940, June 2009
Janice Bawden Scobey; 1940, August 2009

ΒΕ/UCLA

Janet McNeill Merendino; 1943, August 2009

ΒΟ/IOWA

Mary Spohn Dunn; 1930, July 2009

ΒΠ/MICHIGAN STATE

Barbara Finney DenHerder; 1947, August 2008
Carol Brown Eilber; 1945, May 2009
Stacy Bucknam Smock Stone; 1983, Dec. 2008

ΒΣ/SMU

Kathryn Sellers Burney; 1970, July 2009
Antonette Thomas Jeter; 1935, June 2009

ΒΤ/DENISON

Constance Bradford Bigelow; 1942, April 2009
Martha North Cleavenger; 1941, August 2009
Jane Fenwick Nice; 1949, June 2009
Arlene Williams Wagner; 1954, August 2009

ΒΥ/BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sharon MacDonald Hanson; 1961, July 2009

ΒΦ/PENN STATE

Barbara McIlrath Lessig; 1953, April 2009

ΒΩ/COLORADO COLLEGE

Marybelle L. Iliff; 1960, August 2009
Joan Kirkpatrick; 1953, August 2009

ΓΕ/WESTERN ONTARIO

Jessie Thompson Dodds; 1956, July 2008

ΓΚ/GEORGE WASHINGTON

Mary Dickey Evans; 1946, May 2009
Virginia Warren Hahn; 1946, August 2009
Miles Lind Moore; 1947, February 2009
Suzanne Dietz Patrick; 1963, August 2009

ΓΛ/BELOIT

Meredith Osman Becker; 1957, August 2009
Ann Stephens Taylor; 1957, August 2009

ΓΜ/MARYLAND

Gail Day Hardin; 1956, June 2009
Marci Leigh Honstead; 1992, March 2009

ΓΠ/IOWA STATE

Karen Garbow Page; 1968, July 2009

ΓΣ/SAN DIEGO STATE

Barbara Maltby Weldon; 1951, October 2007

ΓΥ/MIAMI

Sandra Marks Starr; 1960, August 2009

ΓΦ/TEXAS TECH

Mary Beth Smith Harden; 1953, August 2009

ΓΨ/TCU

Joanne Kirkpatrick Niemann; 1955, August 2009

ΔΘ/FLORIDA

Joyce Linden Stewart; 1964, August 2009

ΔΙ/PUGET SOUND

Margaret (Peggy) Atwood Schuster; 1974, May 2009

ΔΝ/ARKANSAS

Anita Nevius Holifield; 1967, August 2009 ♦

Dates represent year of initiation and month and year of death.

Are You Missing Something?



Some lost items are more valuable than others!

Are you missing the support and friendship of Theta sisterhood?

Reconnecting with the Fraternity through an alumnae chapter is easy. To locate contact information for your local chapter, log into **www.kappaalphatheta.org** and choose

Find a Chapter under the **About Our Chapters** tab. Several search options are available.

If there isn't an alumnae chapter near you, you can learn more about starting one by choosing

Establishing an Alumnae Chapter

under the
About Our Chapters tab.

Being a part of Kappa Alpha Theta **starts in college**, but it doesn't end there.

The good friends, the laughter, the loyalty—everything that makes Theta the wonderful experience it is—that's **for a lifetime.**